

HSC Student Profile: Nathan

Question 1

Please state your name.

Nathan

Question 2

Which year did you complete your HSC?

2009

Question 3

Did you study any Year 12 HSC subjects (accelerated) in Year 11?
If yes, please list the subject(s).

No

Question 4

At which school did you complete Year 12?

Ryde Secondary College

Question 5

What scores did you obtain for each of your Year 12 studies?

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Assessment Mark</i>	<i>Examination Mark</i>	<i>HSC Mark</i>	<i>Performance Band</i>
<i>Business Studies</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Chemistry</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>English as a Second Language</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Geography</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Mathematics Extension 1</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>E4</i>
<i>Mathematics Extension 2</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>E4</i>

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

99.40

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Planning

Question 8

Which university/tertiary institution are you enrolled in/planning to attend?

Macquarie University



The following questions relate to a typical week where there were no major examinations forthcoming:

Question 9

How many hours did you dedicate to study (outside school) across a typical week?

Typical weekday: 5; Weekend: 10. Take Friday evenings off. Approximately 40 hours per week

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

6:00 Wake up; 7~8:00 travel to school (including waiting time at bus stop); 15:00 finish school; any time between 16:00 and 17:00 back home; relax before dinner which is before 19:00; then studied from around 19:30

Question 11

Where did you engage in the bulk of your study on a day to day basis?
(eg. bedroom, school library etc).

School library, local libraries, and bedroom

Question 12

How many hours did you dedicate to study across school holidays?

About 10 everyday and take late nights off

Question 13

Did you engage in any extra curricular activities across Year 12? If yes, please indicate the activities and how much time was dedicated to each activity.

Cross country: practise jogging at least 20 minutes a day

Question 14

How did you balance/organise your study with other commitments like work or sport or family?

I tried to fit my studies in during the days and took sports and family commitments as a break from studies. Spending a little time in sports and with family does help reset my mood and energy for studying

The following questions relate to a typical week where there were major examinations forthcoming:

Question 15

How did you approach the task of preparing for the exam? (For example, would you start the process by writing notes? If so, which resources did you use to compile materials etc).

I tried to develop my notes for each of my subjects throughout the year especially when I had no assessments due and during the holidays. By the time of the exams I would have had my notes ready. For my notes, I mainly used the assigned textbooks for each of my subjects. Complimentarily, I used study guides such as Excel and so on.

Question 16

How many hours did you dedicate to study (outside of school) in the weeks leading up to the exams?

I tried to keep the same routine for studying exams as my normal routine.

Question 17

What was your typical day to day routine when studying for the exams?

Basically, the same as before. But when sometimes I was too tired to continue at night, I would sleep and wake up earlier the next day around 4am to study given the exams were imminent. I tend to concentrate more easily in early morning.

Question 18

Did you continue your extracurricular activities in the weeks leading up to the exams?

Yes but less often.

Question 19

Which technique(s) did you use to learn materials “off by heart”? (eg. writing notes, re-writing, reading texts etc).

Writing notes, rereading notes, reading texts, and using mind maps

Question 20

When did you start preparing for your TRIAL exams?

I didn't really study much for trials because of other assessments which were due not long before trials. But I would recommend starting preparing for them about one month before and especially during the holidays before the last term.

Question 21

How much study did you engage in between the TRIALS and the final HSC exams?

I tried to keep my studying routine between trials and final exams the same as before throughout the year. But I think I did try to relax for a little bit more so that I wouldn't stress myself too much for the final exams.

Question 22

Do you feel that you invested enough time into study between the Trials and the final HSC exams?
Would you have benefited from additional study across this period?

I do believe I would have benefited from additional study such as by practising more past exam questions.

Question 23

Did your Year 12 peers at school invest in significant study in the lead up to the TRIALS?

Yes definitely. Trials were the last components of our internal assessments.

Question 24

Did your Year 12 peers at school invest in significant study between the TRIALS and the final HSC exams?

Yes but maybe to a lesser extent.

Question 25

Were the TRIAL exams an accurate reflection of the difficulty and style of questions encountered in the final HSC exams?

Yes. The format, difficulty and style were quite similar.

Question 26

Did you suffer from anxiety attacks or mind blocks in any of your exams? What did you do to alleviate or get through these situations?

Not really. But during the ESL Paper 1 exam I lost track of time having forgotten we were given less time than other English exams. By the time I realised we only had 10 minutes left, I was only halfway through my Belonging essay. I got very panicked thinking that was the end. But I also kept telling myself not to worry and I could do it. As a result, I rushed through other parts and to my conclusion of the essay in the last 10 minutes.

Questions Relating to the Subject You Have Been Asked to Write About

Question 1

Which subject does this report relate to?

English as a Second Language

Question 2

Based on your results and performance throughout the year, were you confident that you would obtain a Band 6 result? If not, what Band or overall mark were you anticipating/hoping to receive?

Yes. But to be fair I wasn't sure how other candidates in the state were doing and I was a little bit concerned.

Question 3

Which section/topic of the syllabus did you find most challenging?

All the topics seemed fairly even to me. They are all challenging if a Band 6 was to be achieved.

Question 4

How much time did you spend preparing/working on school assessments?

About one or two weeks prior to the assessments yet the time of working was spaced out with assessments and homework for other subjects.

Question 5

What was the best source of help/information for your assessments? (Text book, teacher, friends, lectures, tutorial programs, private tutors, internet, own research etc).

For ESL, I would consult with the teacher and do my own research from study guides and the internet.

Question 6

Did you regularly use a private tutor in this subject? If so, did you find this assistance beneficial?

No.

Question 7

Did you attend a tuition college/tutorial classes/lectures to assist in this subject? Did you find this assistance beneficial?

No.

Question 8

If applicable, do you feel that you would have obtained the same score if you did not use tutors/coaches/lectures/tuition programs?

In this case, if I did, I think I would have gained more insights about the exams.

Question 9

What was your best source of help across the year (teacher, tutor, lecture program etc)?

Teachers.

Question 10

Did you do anything differently study wise in comparison to your peers at school?

I did do a lot more research in language and writing techniques as well as extra readings in literature and interesting non-fictions.

Question 11

Do you feel that you had an advantage over other students in this subject? If so, what was this advantage?

Yes. My willingness and interest in reading and the English language

Question 12

Compare the subjects for which you obtained your lowest and highest HSC Marks/Bands.

Detail what you did differently between the two subjects and if applicable, provide your opinion on why you obtained such different scores.

In fact, I obtained the lowest mark in ESL compared to my other subjects while Mathematics Extension 1 was the highest in the final HSC results. The study of English itself is different from other subjects. To obtain a good result, it is dependent on a lot of extra readings which develops one's general writing skills and logical and critical thinking.

Question 13

As part of your HSC/TRIAL exam preparation for this subject, did you spend time writing up a comprehensive set of notes from which to learn? If yes, how many hours do you believe you invested into this task?

I did practice essays for each topic. I kept using the notes I had developed throughout the year.

Question 14

Did you purchase/acquire quality notes to assist in your examination preparation? If yes, did you find this acquisition beneficial? Why/why/not?

No.

Question 15

How many examination papers did you work through as part of your exam preparation?

One or two as part of class work. Due to the syllabus change for ESL, the past exams were no more relevant in terms of their contents.

Question 16

Which exam papers did you work through?

(List the names of the entities/organisations that produced the exam papers).

Past BOS and Catholic HSC papers

Question 17

Did you work through any exam papers under exam conditions? If yes, how many?

Yes during the class. To be exact it wasn't under real exam conditions while the class ran for an hour and we continued with the unfinished parts as homework.

Question 18

How much time was invested into preparing for the TRIAL examination?
How much time was invested into preparing for the final HSC examination?
Which examination did you find more difficult and why?

Both exams were similar in terms of styles and contents. It would be a bit difficult to estimate how much time I invested in preparing for the exams. But I would try to spend as much time as possible in preparation.

Question 19

Had you previously covered all the questions/concepts that appeared in the exams or did the exam paper contain materials that you had never seen before? If so, did this make you panic in the exams?

Yes I went through the syllabus and covered all concepts.

Question 20

Did you complete every question in the TRIAL exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

Yes I did.

Question 21

Did you complete every question in the final HSC exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

Yes. However the Belonging essay didn't go as I expected. I did get to the conclusion for the essay but I would have had more details for the body.

Question 22

Did you use any special exam techniques when working through the actual exams?

Not in particular.

Question 23

If applicable, what mistakes did you make when preparing for the TRIAL exams?
Did you do anything differently when preparing for the final HSC examinations?

In the final exam, I tried to answer the short responses in more details and in full sentences, which I didn't do for the trial exam.

Question 24

Which resources did you find most helpful when preparing for the exams?

Past papers in terms of the styles of the questions. Knowing what you would be asked, e.g. language techniques and effects, I would spend time in covering relevant details in preparation.

Question 25

What advice would you provide to those students aiming for a Band 6 in this subject?

Do a lot of reading and develop your writing and thinking skills. On the other hand listening and speaking skills are also important. Given we use English as a second language; take achieving a good result in the subject as improving your English in general. Believe in yourselves. Nothing is too hard when you believe you can do it.

General Advice

Question 1

What was the most difficult aspect of completing your HSC studies and how did you overcome this?

Time management and how to balance workload and relaxation. I jogged when I got tired and unmotivated. When I jogged I reminded myself my aim and planned for what I was going to do for when I finished jogging and for the next days.

Question 2

If you had your time over again, would you do anything differently across Year 11 and/or 12?
Why/Why Not?

Not really, I am quite pleased with my results.

Question 3

Is there anything that you wish you had known about before entering the HSC?

How to the scaling system work maybe

Question 4

Are there any resources/services/products that would have assisted you in your studies had they been available?

Various English study guides: even though my subject was ESL, I did consult with English Advanced and Standard study guides to enlarge my understanding.

Question 5

If you had one piece of advice to give future students, what would it be?

Believe that you can do anything you want. Don't panic; calm down by telling yourself that you can get your expected result before the exams.

Additional Comments

Practise listening by listening to radio everyday. That is what I have been doing to date. I have an alarm radio. It turns on automatically everyday morning. As I listened more my listening skills and English in general had improved greatly.